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Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. NEKU 19.296 (100806-00072)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Mikio ODA, et al.
Serial No.: 10/028,238
Filed: December 21, 2001
Title: OPTICAL PATH CONTROL...
Examiner: Jessica T. Stultz
Art Unit: 2873

June 2, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the document listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed after the issuance of a Notice of Allowance but before the payment of the Issue Fee, a fee of 180.00 accompanies this document in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(c) and 1.17(p) along with a statement in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(e).

Also attached is a copy of a Canadian Office Action dated April 22, 2004 from the corresponding Canadian Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the Canadian Office Action.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

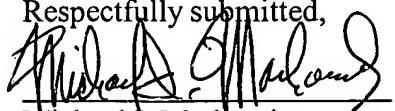
Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

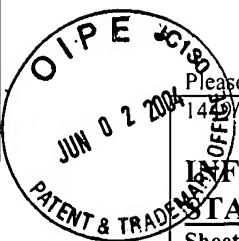

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DOCKET NO.: NEKU 19.296(100806-00072)



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1449 PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 10/028,238

Filing Date : December 21, 2001

First Named Inventor: M. ODA

Group Art Unit : 2873

Examiner Name : J.T STULTZ

Attorney Docket No. : NEKU 19.296

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		98/15676	WO	ROBERT BOSCH GMBH	04/16/1998	
		2000-121967	JP	JAPAN AVIATION ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY LTD	04/28/2000	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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